**Patricians & Plebians:**

**Patricians:** The patricians were the upper class, the nobility and wealthy land owners.

**Plebeians:** The plebeians were the lower class. Nicknamed "plebs", the plebeians included everyone in ancient Rome (except for the nobility, the patricians) from well-to-do tradesmen all the way down to the very poor.

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| **Plebeian houses:** | **Patrician houses:** |
| The plebs lived in flats, above or behind their shops. Even fairly well-to-do tradesmen might chose to live in an apartment-building compound over their store, with renters on the upper stories. Their own apartments might be quite roomy, sanitary and pleasant, occasionally with running water.  But others were not that nice. | The patricians lived very differently. Their homes were single family homes, which in ancient Rome meant the great grandparents, grandparents, parents, and kids of one family lived in a home together. |
| In the apartment houses, or flats, an entire family (grandparents, parents, children) might all be crowded into one room, without running water. They had to haul their water in from public facilities. | Homes were made, quite often, of brick with red tile roofs, with rooms arranged around a central courtyard. The windows and balconies faced the courtyard, not the street, to keep homes safe from burglars. There were painting on the walls and beautiful mosaics on the floor. There was very little furniture, and no carpeting. |
| Fire was a very real threat because people were cooking meals in crowded quarters, and many of the flats were made of wood. | Wealthy Romans might have a house with a front door, bedrooms, an office, a kitchen, a dining room, a garden, a temple, an atrium, a toilet, and a private bath. |
| They didn't have toilets. They had to use public latrines (toilets). |  |
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